



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

Friday, March 6, 2009

NEWS AND INFORMATION from the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA
3000 Racquet Club Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

YMCA RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PEOPLE

Traverse City – GTBYMCA – At the recent 2009 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Awards Banquet, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA Board of Directors recognized the outstanding service of people in the advancement of the mission of the YMCA.

“Without the critical contribution of their time, talents, and treasure by 594 volunteers giving some 44,000 hours of service, we could not accomplish all that we do in our 65 different programs,” said Tom Van Deinse, CEO of our local YMCA. “They truly aid us in our mission to put Judeo-Christian principals into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.”

The Board of Directors was acknowledged for their service. Marc Judge and Lynn Schultz were named Board Volunteers of the Year. Rita Whaley was named Rookie Board Volunteer of the Year.

Members of the Steering Committee for the New YMCA Capital Campaign were recognized and thanked for the raising of some \$5.2 million to date for the Campaign. The Campaign is seeking another \$5.9 million prior to building a new YMCA campus on Silver Lake Road. Although there will be some site preparations in order to build two new athletic fields on the Y property, ground breaking on the essential phase of the project will occur when the balance of the funds are donated.

The YMCA was also pleased to acknowledge the service of volunteers of their “150 Club” who gave over 150 hours of service to the organization last year. New members recognized in this club are Tim Drake, Michael Hayes, Roger LaLonde, Greg Sherwin, Kelly Van Deinse, and Evan Windholz.

Tim Drake was named the 2008 Program Volunteer of the Year for his time and service as a volunteer Pop Warner Football coach.

Kelly Van Deinse won the 2008 Youth Volunteer of the Year for her time and service in the both the gymnastics program and the tennis program.

Twin sisters Amy and Patricia Davis won the Y Strong Kids Award for their leadership on the YMCA gymnastics team.

The family of Dennis and Mary Jo Schmude received the Y's Strong Family Award for their multi-generational involvement in YMCA programs and model demonstration of YMCA values.

Community Service Awards were presented to Brian and Enid Hagerty for their philanthropic work in organizing the Traverse City Turkey Trot benefiting area charities. Also receiving the award were Dave Lein and Sheila Toler of the *Grand Traverse Insider* weekly newspaper for their outstanding promotion of the YMCA in their publication. In addition, Larry Boyd received this award for his service to the YMCA Lacrosse program.

Suzee Gignac received the 2008 Strong Employee Award. She has been working for the YMCA since 2000 in the areas of membership, data management, special events, and known as one of the greeters at the Y.

On behalf of The Oleson Foundation, Kathy Huschke and Marty Watts received the YMCA Strong Communities Award for outstanding service to the philanthropic community and charities through their many donations and grants for civic good of the Grand Traverse Bay region.

Bernie Stover and Anne Tremain from Harborview Centre received the YMCA Philanthropy Award for their continuing support of the YMCA.

Denny Bogard and Jim Elkins received YMCA Lifetime Mission Awards for their years of dedicated service to our YMCA. Elkins is a YMCA past president, and Bogard served as treasurer of the organization for more than 10 years.

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA builds strong kids, strong families, and strong communities as evidenced by its outstanding volunteers and award recipients who give of themselves to changes lives for the better in our region.